IN THE CLAIMS:

Kindly replace the claims with the following:

1. (Currently Presented)A method of noise filtering an image sequence (*VI*), comprising the steps of:

determining (11) statistics from a spatial spread of a set of original pixel values (P_t,M_i) in at least one image of the image sequence (*VI*); and

calculating (14) at least one filtered pixel value (P_t') from ~~a~~ the set of original pixel values (P_t,M_i) obtained from the at least one image, wherein the original pixel values (P_t,M_i) are weighted (13) under control (12,α) of the statistics (11).

2. (Currently Amended) The method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the step of calculating comprises the steps of:

weighting (13) the set of original pixel values (P_t,M_i) under control (12,α) of the statistics (11) to obtain a weighted set of pixel values (P_t,N_i); and

furnishing the weighted set of pixel values (P_t,N_i) to a static filter, in which the at least one filtered pixel value (P_t') is calculated from the weighted set of pixel values (P_t,N_i).

3. (Currently Amended) The method as claimed in claim 1, ~~wherein the statistics (11) include a spatial and/ or~~ further comprising:

determining a temporal spread (S) of the set of original pixel values (P_t,M_i).

4. (Currently Amended) The method as claimed in claim 1 ~~3~~, wherein the ~~spatial and/ or temporal~~ spread (S) is a sum of absolute differences, a given absolute difference being obtained by subtracting an average pixel value from a given original pixel value (P_t,M_i).

5. (Currently Amended) The method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the set of original pixel values (P_t,M_i) include a central pixel value (P_t) and ~~spatially and/or temporally~~ surrounding pixel values (M_i), wherein as a result of the noise filtering, the central pixel value (P_t) is replaced by the filtered pixel value (P_t').

6. (Previously Presented) The method as claimed in claim 2, wherein the set of weighted pixel values (P_t,N_i) is obtained by taking for each pixel in the set of original pixels (P_t,M_i), a combination of a portion α of the original pixel value (P_t,M_i) and a portion 1-α of a central pixel value (P_t).

7. (Previously Presented) The method as claimed in claim 1,
wherein the statistics (11) are furnished to a look-up table (12), from which look-up table (12) a control signal (α) is obtained, which control signal (α) controls the weighting (13).

8. (Previously Presented) The method as claimed in claim 2,
wherein the at least one filtered pixel value (P_t') is obtained by calculating (14) a median of the weighted set of pixel values (P_t,N_i).

9. (Previously Presented) The method as claimed in claim 2,
wherein the at least one filtered pixel value (P_t') is obtained by calculating (14) an average of the weighted set of pixel values (P_t,N_i).

10. (Currently Amended) The method as claimed in claim ~~9~~3, ~~the method further comprising~~:
~~determining (41) a~~ wherein the spatial spread (S_{spat}) is calculated from spatially displaced original pixel values (P_t,M_i) in the set of original pixel values (P_t,M_i,P_{t1},P_{t2}); and

~~determining (42) a~~ the temporal spread (S_{temp}) is calculated from temporally displaced original pixel values (P_t,P_{t1},P_{t2}) in the set of original pixel values (P_t,M_i,P_{t1},P_{t2}); and

weighting (46) the spatially displaced original pixel values (P_t,M_i) under control (43) of the spatial spread (S_{spat}) and the temporally displaced original pixel values (P_t,P_{t1},P_{t2}) under control (44,45) of the temporal spread (S_{temp}).

11. (Currently Amended) The method as claimed in claim 10, wherein the weighted temporally displaced original pixel values (WP_1,WP_2) are divided ~~(a)~~ to lessen their weight in the filtering (47).

12. (Previously Presented) The method as claimed in claim 10, wherein the temporally displaced original pixel values include two original pixel values (P_{t1},P_{t2}) from different fields in a same frame (F_0) and at least one original pixel value of a previous frame (F_{-1}).

13. (Previously Presented) The method as claimed in claim 12, wherein filtered temporally displaced pixel values are used rather than temporally displaced original pixel values.

14. (Currently Amended) A method of encoding (1) an image sequence (VI), comprising the steps of:

encoding a plurality of filtered images, wherein the filtered images are obtained by the steps of:

determining statistics from a spatial spread of a set of original pixel values (P_t,M_i) in each image of the image sequence (VI); and

calculating a filtered pixel value (P_t') from a set of original pixel values (P_t,M_i) obtained from each image, wherein the original pixel values (P_t,M_i) are weighted (13) under control (12,α) of the statistics (11).

15. (Currently Amended)A device for noise filtering an image sequence, the device comprising:

computing means (11) for determining statistics from a spatial spread of a set of original pixel values (P_t,M_i)in at least one image of the image sequence (*V1*); and

filtering means (14) for calculating at least one filtered pixel value (P_t') from a set of original pixel values (P_t,M_i) obtained from the at least one image, wherein the original pixel values (P_t,M_i) are weighted (13) under control (12,α) of the statistics (11).

16. (Currently Amended)A device for encoding (1) an image sequence (V1), the device comprising:

receiving means for receiving filtered images, wherein the filtered images of the image sequence created by a device comprising:

computing means (11) for determining statistics from a spatial spread of a set of original pixel values (P_t,M_i) in each image of the image sequence (*V1*); and

filtering means (14) for calculating a filtered pixel value (P_t') from ~~a~~ the set of original pixel values (P_t,M_i) obtained from each image, wherein the original pixel values (P_t,M_i) are weighted (13) under control (12,α) of the statistics (11).